

CORRESPONDENCE

Epidemiology of Skin Diseases in Africa

To the Editor of the *British Journal of Venereal Diseases*

SIR,—A pilot survey on this subject has yielded such interesting material that I am preparing, with the assistance of the South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, to make a large-scale investigation of the distribution and incidence of skin diseases on the continent of Africa. The ultimate aim is to establish a central office for information and a reference library of literature and photographs.

I wish to approach not only those in scientific and academic institutions, but also anyone who practises or has practised in Africa who could supply information, even if it were only on a limited field of the question. I

would welcome the hospitality of your columns to bring this request to their attention. Questionnaires will be sent on request to anyone willing to help.

Yours faithfully,

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WORLD FORUM ON SYPHILIS AND OTHER TREPONEMATOSES

Washington, 1962

A world forum on syphilis and other treponematoses will be held on September 4 to 8, 1962, in Washington, D.C., under the sponsorship of the American Venereal Disease Association, the American Social Health Association, and the United States Public Health Service. The World Health Organization and the International Union against the Venereal Diseases and Treponematoses will participate.

On behalf of the sponsors, Dr. Luther L. Terry, Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service, has invited health workers from throughout the world. The aim is to establish a fund of current knowledge about the control of syphilis, to outline future courses of action, and to stimulate research and investigations in particular areas. Since the control of syphilis is interrelated with social as well as medical science, the forum will utilize experts in both fields to re-examine present concepts of syphilis

control and suggest new areas and directions for development. Special invitations to present papers are to be issued to outstanding scientists throughout the world, by the Program Committee, which is under the Chairmanship of Dr. William J. Brown, Venereal Disease Branch, Communicable Disease Center, U.S. Public Health Service, Atlanta 22, Georgia, U.S.A.

All persons or organizations engaged in or interested in the control and eradication of the venereal diseases are invited to attend the Forum, which will immediately precede the International Congress of Dermatology (September 9–16), also to be held in Washington, thus enabling specialists to attend both meetings. Those planning to attend should write to Dr. Brown.

The headquarters will be the Sheraton Park Hotel, Washington, D.C.

MEDICAL SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF VENEREAL DISEASES

The Society normally holds one meeting each year outside London; it will meet at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, on June 1 and 2, 1962.